

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

Claims: Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 23 to 42 as follows:

23. An article of educational equipment horizontally traversed by a human comprising:

- a) an enclosed rectangular shaped ladder consisting of
 - i) two elongated, rigid, rectangular rails each rail of equal dimensions,
 - ii) multiple rungs each rung of equal length, perpendicularly affixed to the interior side of each rectangular rail serving to hold the rails in a fixed parallel relationship to each other, and each affixed rung of a height substantially the same, and
 - iii) two rectangular, rigid end boards equal in height to the rails serving to hold the rails in place and serving to hold the ladder in a raised or inclined position after being placed upon a raised apparatus,

wherein the improvements comprise

- a) a straight track comprising
 - i) two elongated, rigid, rectangular rails each rail of substantially equal dimensions comprising elements used to effect a connection with a contiguous rail of another track, straight, arced, or curved, or used to effect a connection with a contiguous distinct end coupler comprising elements used to effect connections with contiguous rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks,
 - ii) each rail comprising elements located in whole or part at its interior side used to effect connections with steps, and
 - iii) multiple steps each step readily detachable with a geometrically shaped colored footing, of substantially equal length, perpendicularly placed length-wise in an element located in whole or part at the interior side of each rectangular rail, and while connected to each rail incapable of rotating or shifting horizontally, serving to hold the directly opposing rails in a fixed parallel relationship to each other, and of substantially the same height, and

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

said straight track excluding end boards as an element thereof removing an obstruction associated with prior art;

b) an arced track comprising

i) two oblong, rigid, arced rails each rail of substantially equal height and width comprising elements used to effect a connection with a contiguous rail of another track, straight, arced, or curved, or used to effect a connection with a contiguous distinct end coupler comprising elements used to effect connections with contiguous rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks,

ii) each rail comprising elements located in whole or part at its interior side used to effect connections with steps, and

iii) multiple steps each step readily detachable with a geometrically shaped colored footing, of substantially equal length, diametrically placed length-wise in an element located in whole or part at the interior side of each arced rail, and while connected to each rail incapable of rotating or shifting horizontally, serving to hold the directly opposing rails in a fixed equidistant relationship to each other, and of substantially the same height; and

said arced track excluding end boards as an element thereof removing an obstruction associated with prior art; and

c) a curved track comprising

i) two oblong, rigid, curved rails each rail of substantially equal height and width comprising elements used to effect a connection with a contiguous rail of another track, straight, arced, or curved, or used to effect a connection with a contiguous distinct end coupler comprising elements used to effect connections with contiguous rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks,

ii) each rail comprising elements located in whole or part at its interior side used to effect connections with steps, and

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

- iii) multiple steps each step readily detachable with a geometrically shaped colored footing, of substantially equal length, diametrically or otherwise placed length-wise in an element located in whole or part at the interior side of each curved rail, and while connected to each rail incapable of rotating or shifting horizontally, serving to hold the directly opposing rails in a fixed equidistant relationship to each other, and of substantially the same height, and
- said curved track excluding end boards as an element thereof removing an obstruction associated with prior art.
24. The article of educational equipment of Claim 23 wherein said tracks, straight, arced, or curved, comprising rails, rectangular, arced, or curved, which comprise elements located in whole or part at the interior side of each rail used to effect a connection with a step said elements in a pattern permitting the height of the steps to be varied.
25. The article of educational equipment Claim 23 further including an anti-tip device on which a straight track is assembled and positioned, said anti-tip device comprising
- a) an elongated, rectangular planar surface lying between and under the rectangular rails of a straight track and extending out from the exterior sides of each rail, and
 - b) two elongated work holder areas each work holder area bordered by two elongated work stop abutments into which a rectangular rail is inserted the abutment adjacent to the exterior side of a rail is higher than the interior side abutment and the exterior side abutment comprises rectangular shaped elements into or through which steps are inserted during the process of assembling a straight track.
26. The article of educational equipment of Claim 23 further including a distinct end coupler, in the shape of a polygon, including a rectangle, diamond, hexagon, or octagon, comprising elements used to effect connections with contiguous rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.
27. The article of educational equipment of Claim 23 further including an apparatus in the shape of a figure eight lying on its side comprising a straight track or tracks, an arced track or tracks, or a curved track or tracks, or a combination of two or more tracks,

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of a centrally located distinct end coupler, in the shape of a polygon, including a diamond or octagon, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

28. The article of educational equipment of Claim 27 further including a column of straight tracks longitudinally intersecting said apparatus at its center whereby the tracks are either connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of said distinct end coupler, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

29. The article of educational equipment of Claim 28 further including a row of straight tracks laterally intersecting said apparatus at its center whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of the distinct end coupler, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

30. The article of educational equipment Claim 23 further including an apparatus in the shape of a circle enclosing a plus sign comprising one or more arced tracks in the shape of a circle and one or more straight tracks in the shape of a plus sign whereby the tracks, arced or straight, are contiguously connected to one another or connected to another track, arced or straight, with the aid of one or more distinct end couplers, each in the shape of a polygon, including a rectangle, located at the center of the plus sign and located at the ends of the plus sign intersecting and connecting with the circle, thereby bridging non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

31. An article of educational equipment horizontally traversed by a walking human comprising:

- a) an enclosed rectangular shaped ladder consisting of
 - i) two elongated, rigid, rectangular rails each rail of equal dimensions,
 - ii) multiple rungs each rung of equal length, perpendicularly affixed to the interior side of each rectangular rail serving to hold the rails in a fixed parallel relationship to each other, and each affixed rung of a height substantially the same, and

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

iii) two rectangular, rigid end boards equal in height to the rails serving to hold the rails in place and serving to hold the ladder in a raised or inclined position after being placed upon a raised apparatus,

wherein the improvements comprise

a) a straight track comprising

i) two elongated, rigid, rectangular rails each rail of substantially equal dimensions comprising elements used to effect a connection with a contiguous rail of another track, straight, arced, or curved, or used to effect a connection with a contiguous distinct end coupler comprising elements used to effect connections with contiguous rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks, and

ii) multiple rungs each rung with a colored, geometrically shaped footing, of substantially equal length and perpendicularly affixed at the interior side of each rectangular rail serving to hold the rails in a fixed parallel relationship to each other, and

said straight track excluding end boards as an element thereof associated with prior art;

b) an arced track comprising

i) two arced oblong, rigid rails each rail of substantially equal height and width comprising elements used to effect a connection with a contiguous rail of another track, straight, arced, or curved, or used to effect a connection with a contiguous distinct end coupler comprising elements used to effect connections with rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks, and

ii) multiple rungs each rung with a colored, geometrically shaped footing, of substantially equal length and diametrically affixed length-wise at the interior side of each arced rail serving to hold the directly opposing rails in a fixed equidistant relationship to each other, and

said arced track excluding end boards as an element thereof removing an obstruction associated with prior art; and

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

c) a curved track comprising

- i) two curved oblong, rigid rails each rail of substantially equal height and width comprising elements used to effect a connection with a contiguous rail of another track, straight, arced, or curved, or used to effect a connection with a contiguous distinct end coupler comprising elements used to effect connections with rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks, and
- ii) multiple rungs each rung with a colored, geometrically shaped footing, of substantially equal length and diametrically or otherwise affixed length-wise at the interior side of each curved rail serving to hold the directly opposing rails in a fixed equidistant relationship to each other, and

said curved track excluding end boards as an element thereof removing an obstruction associated with prior art.

32. The article of educational equipment of Claim 31 further including an anti-tip device on which a straight track is positioned serving to protect the track against tipping, said anti-tip device comprising
- a) an elongated, rectangular planar surface lying between and under the rectangular rails and extending out from the exterior sides of each rail, and
 - b) two work holder areas each work holder area bordered by two elongated work stop abutments the abutment adjacent to the exterior side of a rail is higher than the interior side abutment into which each affixed rail of a straight track is positioned.
33. The article of educational equipment of Claim 31 further including a distinct end coupler, in the shape of a polygon, including a rectangle, diamond, hexagon, or octagon, comprising elements used to effect connections with contiguous rails of two or more tracks, straight, arced, or curved, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.
34. The article of educational equipment of Claim 31 further including an apparatus in the shape of a figure eight lying on its side comprising a straight track or tracks, an

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

arced track or tracks, or a curved track or tracks, or a combination of two or more tracks, whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of a centrally located distinct end coupler, in the shape of a polygon, including a diamond or octagon, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

35. The article of educational equipment of Claim 34 further including a column of straight tracks intersecting said apparatus at its center whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of said distinct end coupler, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

36. The article of educational equipment of Claim 35 further including a row of straight rows laterally intersecting said apparatus at its center whereby the tracks are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to one another with the aid of the distinct end coupler, thereby bridging the non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

37. The article of educational equipment of Claim 31 further including an apparatus in the shape of a circle enclosing a plus sign comprising one or more arced tracks in the shape of a circle and one or more straight tracks in the shape of a plus sign whereby the tracks, arced or straight, are either contiguously connected to one another or connected to another track, arced or straight, with the aid of one or more distinct end couplers, in the shape of a polygon, including a rectangle, located at the center of the plus sign and located at the ends of the plus sign intersecting and connecting with the circle, thereby bridging non-contiguous ends of the tracks.

38. An article of educational equipment horizontally traversed by a human comprising:

a) an enclosed rectangular shaped ladder consisting of

i) two elongated, rigid, rectangular rails each rail of equal dimensions,

ii) multiple rungs each rung of equal length, perpendicularly affixed to the interior side of each rectangular rail serving to hold the rails in a fixed parallel relationship to each other, and each affixed rung of a height substantially the same, and

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

iii) two rectangular, rigid end boards equal in height to the rails serving to hold the rails in place and serving to hold the ladder in a raised or inclined position after being placed upon a raised apparatus,

wherein the improvements comprise

a) a straight track comprising

- i) two elongated, rigid, rectangular rails each rail of substantially equal dimensions, and
- ii) multiple rungs each rung with a colored, geometrically shaped footing, of substantially equal length, and perpendicularly affixed to the interior side of each rectangular rail serving to hold the rails in a fixed parallel relationship to each other, and

said straight track excluding end boards as an element thereof associated with prior art;

b) an arced track comprising

- i) two arced oblong, rigid rails each rail of substantially equal height and width, and
- ii) multiple rungs each rung with a colored, geometrically shaped footing, of substantially equal length, and diametrically affixed length-wise at the interior side of each arced rail serving to hold the directly opposing rails in a fixed equidistant relationship to each other, and

said arced track excluding end boards as an element thereof removing an obstruction associated with prior art; and

c) a curved track comprising

- i) two curved oblong, rigid rails each rail of substantially equal height and width, and
- ii) multiple rungs each rung with a colored, geometrically shaped footing, of substantially equal length, and diametrically or otherwise affixed length-wise at the interior side of each curved rail serving to hold the directly opposing rails in a fixed equidistant relationship to each other; and

said curved track excluding end boards as an element thereof removing an obstruction associated with prior art.

Application Number 10/824,963 (Madigan et al.) GAU 3764 Amendment A contd.

39. The article of educational equipment of Claim 38 further including an apparatus in the shape of a figure eight lying on its side comprising a straight track or tracks, an arced track or tracks, or a curved track or tracks, or a combination of two or more tracks, whereby the tracks may be joined to one another.
40. The article of educational equipment of Claim 38 further including an apparatus comprising two non-contiguous sets of connected arced and curved tracks each set in the shape of a horseshoe located on the left and right sides of the design the open ends of each horseshoe shaped set of tracks located directly opposite and laterally positioned to one another and two non-contiguous straight tracks centrally located on the upper and lower sides of the design directly opposite and longitudinally positioned to one another, all of the horseshoe shaped sets of tracks and straight tracks border an octagon shaped open area in the middle of the design.
41. The article of educational equipment of Claim 40 further including two straight tracks one laterally and centrally positioned within and abutting or lying at the interior sides of a set of horseshoe shaped tracks and the other similarly positioned within the opposing set of horseshoe shaped tracks, all of the horseshoe shaped sets of tracks, inclusive of said partially enclosed laterally positioned straight tracks, and longitudinally positioned straight tracks border an octagon shaped open area in the middle of the design.
42. The article of educational equipment of Claim 38 further including an apparatus in the shape of a circle enclosing a plus sign comprising one or more arced tracks in the shape of a circle and one or more straight tracks in the shape of a plus sign, whereby tracks may be joined to one another.